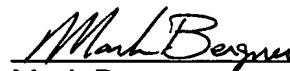


REMARKS

The present Amendment revises the claims to avoid multiple claim dependencies and their attendant fees. A subsequent preliminary amendment will be filed to conform the claims and specification to U.S. Patent Office Rules and Regulations. All of the changes are editorial and applicant believes no new matter is added thereby. The amendment, addition, and/or cancellation of claims is not intended to be a surrender of any of the subject matter of those claims.

Early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Submitted by,

 (Reg. No. 45,877)

Mark Bergner
Schiff Hardin LLP
Patent Department
6600 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473
(312) 258-5779
Attorneys for Applicant

CUSTOMER NUMBER 26574